

A NEW NAME IN THE GENUS *OLSYNIUM* RAF. (IRIDACEAE)UN NUEVO NOMBRE EN EL GENERO *OLSYNIUM* RAF. (IRIDACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Due to the priority of *Olsynium luteum* Raf., a new name, *Olsynium chrysochromum* J.M. Watson et A.R. Flores, is proposed for *Olsynium luteum* (Phil.) Goldbl.

KEYWORDS: Taxonomy, *nomen novum*, *Olsynium*, Iridaceae, Flora of Chile.

RESUMEN

Debido a que el nombre *Olsynium luteum* Raf. tiene prioridad, se propone el nombre *Olsynium chrysochromum* J.M. Watson et A.R. Flores para reemplazar *Olsynium luteum* (Phil.) Goldbl.

PALABRAS CLAVES: Taxonomía, *nomen novum*, *Olsynium*, Iridaceae, Flora de Chile.

The chance discovery under *Sisyrinchium* L. in C.F. Innes (1985) of an early synonym in the genus *Olsynium* Raf., subsequently confirmed in Index Kewensis (Jackson 1894), has led to the need for the creation of a new name (*nomen novum*).

Rafinesque (1836a) erected the genus *Olsynium* in 1837 with *O. grandiflora* Raf. = *O. douglasii* (A. Dietr.) E.P. Bicknell as its type species. An additional species was published in 1838 (Rafinesque 1836b), *O. luteum* Raf. = *Sisyrinchium californicum* (Ker.) Dryand. (This, a common and widespread western North American irid, is known popularly as "golden-eye grass").

In 1864 R.A. Philippi established the genus *Chamelum*, describing as its type species *C. lu-*

teum Phil. Lit.: Muñoz Pizarro (1960). At that time the small genus was monotypic, remaining so until *C. bodenbenderi* Kurtz (syn. *C. rubellum* Rav.) was added, and *C. frigidum* (Poeppig) Rav. was later transferred from other genera in the Iridaceae.

Goldblatt, Rudall & Henrich (1990) united 3 small South American genera of the broad *Sisyrinchium* alliance, including *Chamelum*, in the genus *Olsynium*, together with the section *Eriphilema* Herbert of *Sisyrinchium* from North and South America (which included *S. douglasii* A. Dietr.), retaining the latter as its type species. Among several new combinations published was *O. luteum* (Phil.) Goldbl.

This latter epithet must now be regarded as invalid on the basis of the priority of the earlier usage by Rafinesque.

We have before us a photograph of this rare and beautiful early flowering little plant from the Cordilleras of Coquimbo (Rodríguez & Marticoarena, 1992) and Santiago as we write, and trust that the name published below not only reflects

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more accurately its flower color whilst respecting the spirit of Philippi's original concept, but is sufficiently distinct and memorable not to be confused with his earlier epithet.

Olsynium chrysochromum J.M. Watson et A.R. Flores. *Nom. nov.*

Basionym: *Chamelum luteum* Phil., *Linnaea* 33:250. 1864.

Sinonym: *Olsynium luteum* (Phil.) Goldbl., *Syst. Bot.* 15(3):508. 1990, *non Olsynium luteum* Raf., *Fl. Tellur.* 4:30. 1838. = *Sisyrinchium californicum* (Ker.) Dryand.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This small taxonomic revision results directly from research into the Andean flora for contributions commissioned by the Alpine Garden Society (Great Britain) to be included in its

projected encyclopaedia, as well as from our assistance towards the flora altoandina project of the Fundación Claudio Gay.

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